

Colorado Notary Statute History		
© Copyright 2012-2022 ABC Legal Docs, LLC All rights reserved		
See Colorado Notary Training classes at ABCLegalDocs.com		
Year	Legislation	Comments
pre-1540	Native American	before the Spanish Conquistadors arrived, Native American tribal law applied, there were no written documents
1540	Spanish law	starting with Coronado in 1540, a dozen or more Spanish Conquistador expeditions in the region included royal notaries of the King who kept records and officiated land claims, oaths, and legal matters under Spanish law
1803	federal law, unorganized territory	with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, federal law and military law applied until territories and states were formed and staffed with local government officials, few people in the region except hunters and fur trappers before the Pikes Peak gold rush of 1859, some notarial acts involving Native Americans done by federal Indian agents, some notarial acts at military forts and trading posts including Bents Fort
1821	Mexican law	Mexico won independence from Spain, southern section of Colorado region was part of Mexico until Mexican American War ended in 1848
1848	federal law	southern section of Colorado region now under U.S. ownership and federal law
1854	statutes on file	Kansas Territory formed, included a western gold mining region named Arapahoe County extending to the Rocky Mountains, Kansas Territory notary laws applied to Arapahoe County, but no county officials or notaries were appointed until 1858
1858	statutes on file	Kansas Territory Governor James Denver appoints officials for Arapahoe County, including notaries
1859	statutes on file	Jefferson Territory formed by elections of local residents, not recognized by U.S. Government, notary laws written, notaries appointed by Governor, many laws adopted by Colorado Territory, some local residents rejected Kansas laws and followed Jefferson Territory laws
1861	KS statehood	State of Kansas was formed, Arapahoe County was not included, it became part of Colorado Territory
1861	statutes on file	Colorado Territory formed from KS, NE, UT, NM, existed from Feb 28, 1861 until statehood Aug 1, 1876, notary acts done in former Kansas Territory accepted as valid
1867	statutes on file	Notary Statutes, CO Territory, Notaries appointed by Governor, seal is an impression on paper or wax with Notary name and residence, \$500 bond, oath of office prescribed by law indorsed on bond, 3 yr Statute of Limitations
1876	CO statehood	Colorado Constitution, State of Colorado admitted to Union Aug 1 by President Ulysses S Grant
1883	statutes on file	Notary Statutes, State of Colorado, \$1000 bond, must record Notary commission and bond with county
1908	statutes on file	Notary Statutes, State of Colorado, \$1000 bond, seal contains name and residence, show expiration date in writing
1912	statutes on file	Notary Statutes, State of Colorado, \$1000 bond, seal contains name and residence, show expiration date in writing
1933	SB 33-587	notary fees
1945	SB 45-90	Notaries in any county may administer oaths, affidavits, depositions
1945	SB 45-211	SOS shall appoint and commission Notaries, not Governor
1947	HB 47-847	Notary may take oath in any county
1949	HB 49-889	Notary may record oath/bond in any county
1953	statutes on file	96-1-1 thru 96-1-12, 96-1-5 Seal shall be an impression on paper or wax with notary name and residence, written expiration date required, 96-1-6 Oath of office as prescribed by law, bond \$1000, 96-1-8 Oath shall be endorsed on bond, recorded by county register of deeds, statute of limitations 3 yrs, 96-1-12 Fees: acknowledgment \$0.50, noting protest \$0.25, depositions \$0.15 per 100 words, taking affidavit \$0.25
1959	HB 59-232	Notaries regulated by SOS not county, oath of office as prescribed by law, bond \$1,000
1963	HB 63-7	Notary may record or show certificate of authority from SOS to receive a county certificate
1963	statutes	96-1-5 Seal shall be an impression on the instrument with notary name, Notary Public, State of Colorado, written expiration date required, 96-1-6 Oath of office as prescribed by law, bond \$1000, 96-1-8 No mention of oath endorsed on bond, bond delivered to SOS, statute of limitations 3 yrs
1973	statutes	12-55-105 Seal shall be an impression on the instrument with notary name, Notary Public, State of Colorado, written expiration date required, 12-55-106 Oath of office as prescribed by law, bond \$1000, 12-55-108 bond and oath delivered to SOS, statute of limitations 3 yrs
1975	HB 75-1248	12-55-110 Notary fee \$1 maximum for each acknowledgment, 12-55-111 \$1 filing fee for change of Notary name
1975	HB 75-1693	Added 12-55-105(3) Notary seal may consist of rubber stamp with indelible ink, Added 12-55-111 Whenever a seal is required, rubber stamp with indelible ink is sufficient, Changed 12-55-211
1981	SB 81-213	Adoption of Notaries Public Act (12-55 entire Part 1) Notary laws repealed and reenacted, \$5,000 bond and statutory affirmation included, Notary fee \$2 maximum, rubber stamp or embosser seal allowed, must write expiration date and home or business address
1983	HB 83-1160	12-55-112(2) seal, Notary certificate changes, requires name of county where notarization occurred and Notary expiration date, 12-55-119 form of affirmation, 12-55-120(2) facsimiles of documents
1984	HB 84-1073	12-55-112(3) Notary address no longer required on acknowledgment
1992	SB 92-11	Notary bond requirement abolished, bond or insurance voluntary, notarizing blank documents prohibited, revoked Notaries may apply again after 7 years elapsed
1998	HB 98-1043	Notary training authorized, discipline by SOS
1998	SB 98-076	Notary powers extended, protests limited, accommodate disabilities, Notary fee \$5 maximum
2002	HB 02-1088	Added Notary revocation for Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL), Notarios, false advertising
2004	HB 04-1300	Qualified elector requirement removed, Colorado resident required, revocation for 7 years changed to permanent
2005	HB 05-1007	Notary training by SOS and exam required for all applicants after Jan 1, 2006 (vetoed by Governor)
2005	HB 05-1136	Pictorial Notary added, may transmit encrypted photos of individuals for DMV, credit card companies, \$10 max fee
2009	HB 09-1190	Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act added, for state legal proceedings where witness is located outside of US
2009	SB 09-111	Notary must have legal presence in Colorado, journal required for all acts, discipline by SOS includes admonition or suspension, pictorial Notary abolished, SOS may write training rules
2012	HB 12-1274	Notary rectangular stamp required with Notary ID # and expiration date, embosser abolished, allows electronic filing of Notary applications, clarifies disciplinary actions
2018		Colorado Notaries Public Act repealed, replaced by Colorado Revised Uniform Law On Notarial Acts (RULONA)
2020		Due to pandemic, emergency executive order allowed Remote Ink Signed (RIN) notarial service until end of year, consumer-grade video conferencing software allowed such as Zoom, Skype
2021		Remote Online Notarial (RON) laws added, RON training and SOS-approved RON software required for security